Import of Wheat

†4. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the year wise amount spenton import of wheat during last three years;

(b) whether this import had been made because availability of wheat was less than the requirement; if not, the reasons for such import;

(c) the year-wise quantity of wheat imported, in tonnes, during the last three years; and

(d) the reasons for both import & export simultaneously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (c) Year-wise details of wheat imported on Govt. account during the last three years are as under:—

Qty. in lakh tonnes

Value (foreign exchange) in million dollars

Year	Qty.	Foreign Exchange spent
1996-97	17.51	281.92
1997-98	10.18	163.46
1998-99	14.15	205.18

(b) Wheat is also allowed to be imported by Roller Flour Mills for milling purposes. Figures of such import on trade account are not available. Imports on Government account are determined by Govt. over all assesment of the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis-a-vis the prescribed buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement for PDS/other welfare schemes, open market prices etc.

(d) These has been no commercial export of wheat from the Central pool on Govt. account during this period.

Export of Meat

†5. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) What is the year-wise value of export of meat made during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that a demand to ban the export of meat has been made to the Government;

(c) if so, whether Government are going to consider it seriously; and

(d) If not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Export of meat of all types from India during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
1996-97	692.74
1997-98	794.42
1998-99*	771.91

(SOURCE: DGCI&S, Calcutta) * Provisional

(b) Yes, Sir,

(c) and (d) Government has considered the requests to ban export of meat and meat products from India. The meat exports of India amount to only about 4% of meat production in the country. The livelihood of a sizeable number of people is connected with the meat industry involving rearing and slaughtering of animals and meat processing. As such, a ban on meat export may result in unemployment as well as loss of foreign exchange earnings. Moreover, unproductive animals will not be tended and thereby become carriers of livestock diseases affecting productive cattle and milk production. Such unproductive animals will also require to be fed, thus depriving healthy productive animals of the care that would need.

Export of Fruits and Vegetables from Himachal Pradesh

6. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names and quantity of fruit and vegetable items exported from Himachal Pradesh during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; itemwise;